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NEWS
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EMERGENCY: DANIMAL DOWN

IN WHICH SHANNON
RELUCTANTLY SAVES THE
DAY ... AGAIN

PAGE 10



A squirrely turn of events

The Nutcracker gets a Canadian twist in a new Group of Seven inspired ballet production

PAGE 4

'Flushable' wipes create a big stink

Wastewater utilities allege wipes are creating clogs that are costing ratepayers hundreds of millions

PAGE 8



MAN FOUND NAKED, WOUNDED IN PARK

A police investigator takes away bags of evidence from the scene after a man was found injured and naked in Andrew Haydon Park in Ottawa on Sunday. Story, page 3. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

The TBS bling ring?

Access to Information.

Department that watches other departments' books is also the most lavish spender on staff rewards: Document

Gold necklaces, hockey tickets, camcorders, iPods, spa visits — even a gift card to the liquor store.

This is some of the half-million dollars of booty that Treasury Board Secretariat handed out to favoured workers in the last five years.

The Secretariat, with about 1,900 employees, now spends well over \$100,000 each year on staff rewards.

The annual value has quadrupled since 2006, when the Conservative government first came to power.

The value hit a peak of \$135,000 in 2011, the year the Conservative government began cutting staff and programs to wipe out the federal deficit by 2015.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement has recently criticized the benefits available to public servants, and

publicly vowed to trim them, putting him at odds with unions.

But internal documents show his department has been ever more generous with its so-called "Instant Awards" program, sometimes handing out goods and services worth as much as \$500 a pop.

The cheapest employee rewards have been \$10 gift cards for coffee shops or for a bowling alley. One worker was handed a French grammar book worth \$14.65, which to some may sound more like a punishment than a reward.

At the high end, many employees were given \$500 gift cards for use at Best Buy, for example, or at the Rideau Centre.

The internal documents, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act, list the names of the workers but do not spell out the reasons for the hundreds of awards.

Such awards are considered taxable benefits under Canada Revenue Agency rules, and are often listed under both their "gross" value, reported to the taxman, and the "net" value in the hands of the worker.

Awards programs have a

Details

- The haul includes a Sears sewing machine, a notebook computer, a Tiffany ring, a Garmin GPS device, along with a wide range of cash cards for spas, restaurants, gas stations, pubs, Toys "R" Us, Canadian Tire, Shoppers Drug Mart, Tim Hortons and Starbucks.

- Federal policy encourages rewards for employees' good work, but notes that "recognition often has no cost involved."

cap of \$500 net for each item or cash card.

Most departments and agencies have employee recognition programs, many with an "Instant Awards" element, a management tool authorized across government in 1990.

One internal survey showed managers prefer "Instant Awards" programs because they're easy to administer and less expensive than more formal awards.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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South end

One dead, two injured in car crash

Ottawa police say one man has been pronounced dead at the scene of a serious collision in the city's south end.

The collision occurred on 8th Line Road south of Parkway Road just before 4 p.m. Ottawa Fire Services spokesperson Marc Messier said firefighters had started an extrication on the man's Honda Civic, but he was soon pronounced dead. His age and name have not been released.

The Honda collided with a Dodge Caravan carrying a mother and her seven-year-old daughter. Messier said the woman's legs were pinned by the crumpled dashboard, which firefighters had to remove in order to free her from the vehicle.

She was sent to hospital while her child was sent to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Their injuries are not known. Messier is asking motorists to avoid the area as Ottawa police investigate the collision. **JOE LOFARO/METRO**

Lotto 6-49

Ottawa ticket holder wins \$20M jackpot

Someone in the national capital region is \$20 million richer.

The OLG said a winning ticket for Saturday's Lotto 6-49 \$20,113,058 jackpot has been sold to someone in the Ottawa region. The winning numbers are 09, 12, 17, 20, 21, 37, and the bonus number is 31. The lucky winner has yet to claim the prize.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Victim suffered from apparent stabbing

Police are trying to identify a man who was found in Andrew Hayden Park naked and suffering from apparent knife wounds Sunday morning.

Staff Sgt. Rick Keindel said a passerby called 911 just after 9 a.m. after seeing a man who is believed to be in his 20s without his clothes on. Keindel said the man did not have any identification on him when he was found and is in "rough shape."

The unidentified man is in serious condition. The Ottawa police west district unit is investigating.

One pedestrian was walking Sunday afternoon past the several feet of police tape that was bound to trees and posts, cordoning off a large section of the park and parking lot. He said "it's very scary" that a man was found there with apparent knife wounds.

Two Ottawa police cruisers could be seen guarding the scene.

Neighbours whose backyards face the park across the street told Metro they did not see or hear anything unusual in the area Sunday morning or Saturday evening. They said their community is quiet and they feel safe walking in the picturesque park in daylight hours. **JOE LOFARO/METRO**



A police investigator gathers evidence at Andrew Hayden Park on Sunday. **MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO**

OC Transpo ridership down 3.9% in Q3: Report

Transportation. Report cites shrinking federal public service, hints at even gloomier 2014

Passengers took almost 1 million fewer trips on OC Transpo in the third quarter of 2013 compared to the same period last year, according to a report heading to Wednesday's transit commission meeting.

The Q3 2013 Transit Services Report noted there were 21.08 million trips in the third quarter, which is down about 860,000 trips, or 3.9 per cent, from the same period in 2012.

Compared to figures in 2011, it represents a decrease of more than 1.8 million fewer trips.

OC Transpo attributes the drop to a dwindling federal public service and the report hints at an even gloomier outlook heading into 2014.

"The number of people employed in Ottawa-Gatineau decreased from 710,300 in September 2012 to 696,000 in

September 2013, which means there were 14,300 fewer jobs than a year earlier," the report reads, citing numbers from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

OC Transpo ridership is on track to take another hit with the remainder of the 12,800 regional jobs the Conference Board of Canada expects to be slashed by the end of 2014.

"With public administration being the largest single source of employment in the region, OC Transpo does not expect ridership to grow over the rest of 2013," the report reads.

Looking back for perspective, ridership increased monthly in 2011 except for July, according to the report. By contrast 2013 has seen month to month decreases in ridership in every month except for April. The report projects continued monthly ridership declines for the remainder of 2013.

With a decrease in ridership, it comes as no surprise that the number of park and ride spaces used in Q3 2013 was also down 3 per cent compared to last year.



Passengers wait to board their bus at a transit stop outside the Rideau Centre on the Mackenzie King Bridge. **SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO**

1 NEWS



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Nutcracker gets a Canadian twist

Ballet Jorgen.

Squirrel-ified Russian Christmas classic set to hit CentrepoinTE, Shenkman

DENIS ARMSTRONG
ottawa@metronews.ca

The only thing that might make this *Nutcracker* Christmas ballet more Canadian is if it was set at a Tim Hortons.

Inspired by the Group of Seven, Ballet Jorgen gives Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* a uniquely Canadian twist when it returns to CentrepoinTE Theatre Dec. 14 and 15, and Shenkman Arts Centre Dec. 16 and 17.

Instead of the ballet's traditional cast of Christmas characters — sugarplum fairies, swans and military mice — 31 local dancers ranging in age from seven to 14 will play squirrels, beavers, raccoons, loons, bears and other iconic Canadian wildlife.

"The bears and the raccoons are the best," said 11-year-old dancer Shannon Costello. "Their costumes are cool and their choreography is slinky."

Megan Glauser, 14, is proud how quickly she and the other dancers picked up the choreography, and now that they're halfway through their eight-week rehearsal schedule they're already polishing their performances.

At times, they've been known to take their once-a-week rehearsals home.

"I play a squirrel even when I go home," Glauser said. "It's fun because I have



Meral Aduli, bottom, and Liane Giroux practice playing squirrels for the upcoming production of *The Nutcracker*.
DENIS ARMSTRONG/FOR METRO

to use a lot of expression. I squirrel-ify everything now."

"It's hard work, but it's fun acting like an animal because I love animals," said Jasmine Spurrell, 9, who plays a frog.

As much as they love wearing animal costumes, the girls said these decorated track suits are hot to dance in. But, like real troopers, they're too busy channeling their animal characters to even notice.

"Come and see it," adds Costello. "It's a Canadian tradition."



Dancers rehearse a scene from *The Nutcracker* at Shenkman Arts Centre Sunday. DENIS ARMSTRONG/FOR METRO

Fire causes \$400K in damages



Ottawa firefighters respond to a fire in Chinatown. CONTRIBUTED

At least a dozen Ottawa residents are displaced from their homes Sunday after a fire ravaged a three-storey apartment in Chinatown near the intersection of Booth Street and Elm Street.

Ottawa Fire Services responded to 257 Booth Street just after 6:30 a.m. and evacuated the building that was surrounded by heavy smoke.

Crews brought the blaze under control at approxi-

mately 8:51 a.m. while the Red Cross and Salvation Army arranged temporary shelter for some residents.

Fire Services spokesperson Marc Messier said between 12 and 16 people have been displaced.

One firefighter sustained minor injuries, Messier said. The fire caused an estimated \$300,000 in damages to the building and \$100,000 to its contents.

Displaced

12 to 16

Fire Services spokesperson Marc Messier said between 12 and 16 people have been displaced from their homes as a result of the Chinatown blaze.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.
JOE LOFARO/METRO

Electrifying Anderson helps Hawks cut Power

Kryptonite. Ottawa rallies for win, putting Mississauga and Alex 'Superman' Johnson down, down and away

Superman returned to Ottawa on Saturday night, but the SkyHawks (2-2) wielded the kryptonite, rallying for a 95-92 win against the Mississauga Power (2-3) in front of about 2,100 fans at Canadian Tire Centre.

SkyHawks forward Ryan Anderson poured in 27 points, including two three-pointers and going 9-for-9 on free throws, outshining Power guard Alex "Superman" Johnson, the former SkyHawk who was the NBL Canada's top draft pick in August.

In what might be considered a surprise move, Ottawa traded Johnson away late last month, and he now plays with Mississauga.

On Saturday, Johnson was the starting guard for the Power. He played just shy of 40 minutes, scoring 10 points and adding four assists.

"It was kind of weird, kind of odd, coming into (Ottawa's) big arena (tonight). This could have been me (here) two-and-a-half weeks ago," said Johnson after the game, as he held on to a large box — a "care package" — mailed from North Carolina by his girlfriend.

"We're a good group of guys and still trying to bond, but that takes time. I was with Ottawa for (training camp) ... now I've come to another team. I'm still trying to play catch-up."

To start the third quarter, Johnson and his Power teammates went on a 20-8 run, turning a five-point halftime deficit into a seven-point lead at 70-63.

After several missed scoring opportunities on both ends of the hardwood, the SkyHawks fought back to tie the game at 80-80 just three minutes into the fourth quarter.

Each team then had successive possessions that led to missed shots or turnovers. After a media time out, the



The Ottawa SkyHawks' Ryan Anderson goes up for a shot in Saturday night's game against Mississauga Power at the Canadian Tire Centre in Kanata. The SkyHawks beat the Power 95-92. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Hawks took control of the game, going on a 10-0 run to surge ahead 90-80. Mississauga was able to close the gap to within three, and had a chance to tie the score in the final 18.5 seconds of the game, but missed on two three-point attempts.

In the second quarter, the SkyHawks went up by 10 points with just 1:10 left, but the Power came back to notch a quick trey, then a two-point jumper closed the gap to 55-50 at the half.

Star guard Justin Tubbs, Ottawa's top scorer in each of the team's first three games, had a rare off night. Tubbs played just 20 minutes and scored just one basket, a three-pointer in the second quarter. After the game, Tubbs agreed he wasn't at his best, but said, "Don't worry, I'll be back."

The SkyHawks have a gruelling weekend ahead, playing four games in three and a half days.

On Thursday, Ottawa will head down the 401 to Bramp-

ton for a game against the A's at the Powerade Centre. Then they return home to host the (Prince Edward) Island Storm on Friday evening, and the Mississauga Power are back at Canadian Tire Centre for a rematch next Saturday.

MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Hawk Talk

- Saturday night's attendance was estimated at about 2,100.
- The Power moved to Mississauga from Oshawa after last season.
- Right after the game, CTC workers began the conversion from basketball venue to hockey arena. They said they would have it ready by about 2 a.m. for the game between the Ottawa Senators and the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday.

700 Canadians Own Property in Ecuador!

WHY?

"Because we can!" responds Mario Rochefort, who recently purchased one of the 1600 home sites from the Canadian company HolaEcuador. "With prices like that we can finally afford a property in the south."

"Prices start at \$15,000 for a lot and \$55,000 for a nice little beach house. For \$120,000 you can own a luxurious home that would easily cost \$300,000 or more in Canada."

"It's an ecological Canadian project, with all the amenities included. Electrical, water and sewage, internet, on-site security, pools, parks, tennis courts, and more — they really thought of everything," he adds, visibly proud of his acquisition.

But perhaps most attractive for property owners — the ocean! The project is situated on one of the 3 most beautiful beaches of Ecuador, directly in front of the "mini Galapagos" island in the Machalilla National Park. "Property owners benefit from a half kilometer of private beach and enjoy the constantly warm and pristine waters of the Pacific Ocean — and without annoying algae or jelly-fish. It's one of the main reasons that we decided to develop at this location," says Yves Cormier and Gordon Poole, the Canadian co-owners of HolaEcuador.



From June through October 12,000 humpback whales come to play in the warm and safe waters directly in front of HolaEcuador's beachfront development



One of the beautiful homes being built by HolaEcuador

ECUADOR?

"Ecuador has long been a well-kept secret, but tourism in the country is growing rapidly. It's the Costa Rica of 15 years ago," affirms Mr. Poole.

Ecuador has more than just beautiful beaches — it's perhaps the most bio-diverse country in the world! Within reach of a day trip are the Amazon rain forests and the incredible Andes mountain chain. And of course, the world famous Galapagos Islands.

All of this to offer, and with incredible infrastructure to boot. Gorgeous new highways (without potholes!), high-end, accessible healthcare, a secure and safe environment and an extremely low cost of living. In fact, Ecuador has the lowest cost of living in all of the Americas! A taxi in town costs only \$1 and a daily lunch special in a seaside restaurant is rarely over \$3.

HOW TO BECOME A PROPERTY OWNER?

"It's very simple," says Mr. Rochefort. "I saw an advertisement for an informational session in Metro News, I reserved a spot and I attended. The developers themselves were present and gave us all the information we needed. After the session, I requested a follow-up meeting with one of the HolaEcuador sales representatives at their office in Hull and a few weeks later I was the proud owner of my piece of paradise! In a couple of years I'll be building my dream home with HolaEcuador."

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Bulgaria. Students demand end to corruption

Ivaylo Dinev believes the time has come to change his world. To do so, he's chosen a tactic straight from the 1960s — the sit-in.

The 24-year-old anthropology student is the informal leader of a group that has occupied Sofia University's main building since the end of October in hopes of forcing Bulgaria's Socialist-led government to resign.

"We want morality in politics; we want our politicians to work for the people and not for the Mafia," Dinev said. "That is the main reason we want the government to resign."

In the 28-nation EU, Bulgaria

Growing movement

- The Sofia University occupation has spawned other university sit-ins, energizing a five-month-old movement against the government over allegations its leaders have ties to shady businessmen.

lags only behind Greece on Transparency International's corruption-perception index. In the country's courts, magistrates have accepted bribes to end some corruption investigations. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Dozens injured

Tornadoes sweep across Midwest, killing at least 5

Dozens of tornadoes and intense thunderstorms swept across the Midwest on Sunday, unleashing powerful

winds that flattened entire neighbourhoods, flipping over cars, uprooting trees and leaving at least five people dead.

Illinois took the brunt of the fury as the string of unusually powerful late-season tornadoes tore across the state, injuring dozens. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pakistan planning to try ex-president for treason



Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf, centre, leaves after appearing in court in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, in April. Pakistan's government plans to put Musharraf on trial for treason for suspending the constitution while in power. ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Musharraf. Former leader could face death penalty if convicted for suspending constitution while in power

Pakistan's government plans to put former president Pervez Musharraf on trial for treason for declaring a state of emergency and suspending the constitution while in power, the interior minister said Sunday.

Musharraf, a former army chief, would be the first military ruler tried for treason in

Charges

“The constitution was ruined and violated. The judiciary was humiliated.”

Pakistan Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar
Ali Khan

a country that has experienced three military coups in its 66-year history. He could face the death penalty or life in prison if he is convicted, but some question whether the country's powerful army actually will let that happen. Musharraf has maintained his innocence.

The government plans to send a letter to the Supreme Court on Monday asking that treason proceedings begin under Article 6 of the constitution, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said during a news conference. The government made its decision after an investigating committee formed under the direction of the Supreme Court collected enough evidence for a trial, Khan said.

He insisted the government's decision to put the former president on trial was not a personal vendetta by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was toppled in a military coup by Musharraf in 1999.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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A vibrant promotional graphic for 'Discover Ecuador'. The top right features a large, colorful circular logo made of many small squares, with the text 'ecuador love life' below it. The center of the graphic is dominated by the words 'Discover Ecuador' in large, multi-colored letters. Below this, a paragraph of text invites visitors to join a tour of Ecuador's wonders. To the left, a teal banner reads 'WE WILL HAVE A LOT OF SURPRISES!'. The bottom of the graphic is a collage of logos for various organizations, including holaecuador.ca, Flower Link, AQUALINA, and others. Several small inset photos show scenic views of Ecuador, including a person on a mountain, a church, a lighthouse, a train, and a beach.

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Quebec. Snack-maker won't back down from native boy logo in holiday campaign

A Quebec snack-maker won't back down from plans to re-introduce a popular old logo of a cartoon aboriginal boy in a loincloth and feathered hat.

Krispy Kernels snack foods drew some criticism for a holiday marketing campaign featuring the old logo that hasn't been on the market for more than 20 years.

Its chip-package logo was well known for decades in Quebec, where the company is based.

It first appeared when the company was founded



Vintage bags of Yum Yum potato chips featuring their aboriginal boy logo. RYAN REMIOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS

in 1959 and disappeared in 1990 during the Oka Crisis. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saturday Night Live

NBC show mocks Rob Ford in opening sketch

Saturday Night Live has joined its late night TV brethren in claiming a stake in the Rob Ford comedy gold mine, lampooning

Toronto's mayor.

SNL opened with Bobby Moynihan portraying Ford in a skit that parodied his repeated public apologies for such things as smoking crack, buying drugs, driving after drinking and using vulgar language. Ford was again targeted on their Weekend Update.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western studies porn's effect on relationships

Sexual health study.

A special appeal is being made for people who don't use porn but have a romantic partner who does



MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in London, Ont.

Do you watch pornography? Shy? Won't admit it?

That's the problem, say Western University researchers in London, Ont. Lots of people use porn but too few people admit it.

So they have made an unusual appeal. They want people to talk frankly — but anonymously — about their porn preferences to help a historic study into its effect on relationships.



Taylor Kohut, a research assistant at Western. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO LONDON

"We know that a lot of people are consuming pornography, both men and women," said Taylor Kohut, research assistant in the department of psychology. "We've known this for quite some time, although specific numbers are hard to pin down."

"We know that some

people think this is affecting their relationships in different ways. What we don't know is why or how."

There has been research into porn and sexual behaviour for more than 40 years, said Kohut, but no definitive study during the Internet age.

The work at Western, led by professors Dr. William

Fisher and Dr. Lorne Campbell, will be a first for the study of sexual health. It's been awarded a government grant of \$144,570.

An online questionnaire asks what people are looking at, whether they do it alone or with a partner, and how they think it affects their relationship.

Here's how to get involved

Can you take part in the Western University research into pornography? Absolutely! Here's how:

- The study itself can be found at goo.gl/duu-wmW
- For more information about the research, go to smartla5.wix.com/smartlab or facebook.com/smartlabwesternu.

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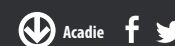
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Municipalities pooh-poo 'flushable' wipes

Sanitation.

Wipes marked as flushable wreak havoc on sewer systems

They're billed as a fresh, clean alternative to toilet paper — but waste-water utilities across Canada say personal wipes are creating putrid sewage clogs that are costing Canadian ratepayers at least \$250 million a year.

Sewage experts in Canada, the U.S. and beyond are cringing at efforts to sell the masses on the need to freshen their nether regions.

Manufacturers, meanwhile, say the wipes are getting the bum's rush from waste-water officials and are perfectly safe to flush.

Nonetheless, the Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group (MESUG), composed of 25 Can-

Think before you flush

"If we don't deal with this problem, the Canadian taxpayer will be literally flushing away millions."

Barry Orr, City of London Environmental and Engineering Services

adian communities, wants a federal standard to ensure more honest labelling of the wipes and other products that they insist are not safe to send down the toilet.

Among them: supposedly flushable toilet-cleaning sponges, tampon applicators and even plush, multi-ply toilet paper.

While those products and personal wipes may swirl down the toilet with ease, experts say they don't disintegrate, creating serious problems as they work their way through aging sewage systems on their way to treatment plants.

"If we don't deal with this problem, the Canadian tax-

payer will be literally flushing away millions," said Barry Orr with the City of London Environmental and Engineering Services.

"It's not a sexy topic — it's an out-of-sight, out-of-mind situation. People expect to flush things down the toilet and then don't want to think about it anymore. But for me, this is everyday life, and we have to get this information out to the public."

Indeed, Orr said, many municipal officials believe that MESUG's estimate of the \$250 million annual cost is low and that wipes are poised to take a bigger toll. Personal wipes are a \$6-billion industry in North

International clogs

Flushable wipes aren't only causing problems in Canada.

- **Washington, D.C.** More than \$1 million was spent installing powerful grinders to shred wipes.
- **Fatberg.** In England a few months ago, a 15-tonne blob of wipes and cooking grease the size of a bus — nicknamed "Fatberg" by the Brits — was discovered in a London sewer pipe.

America, one that's expected to grow six per cent annually over the next five years.

In both the U.S. and Canada, manufacturers voluntarily test products for flushability, but federal laws don't require third-party assessment or verification. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Barry Orr, of City of London Environmental and Engineering Services, lifts a giant mass of material, mostly wipes that are supposed to be flushable, that had been clogging the city's sewage-system pumps. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rumours of the death of cable TV have been greatly exaggerated

Cutting the cord, slowly.

While cheap streaming services are on the rise, only 3.5% of us have cancelled costly TV subscriptions since 2011

Watching television on the Internet is cheap and convenient, but so far only a small number of Canadians have cut the cord on traditional viewing as TV providers offer discount prices and spend more on programs to keep customers who pay bigger monthly bills.

The death of traditional TV watching has been overblown so far, say analysts who track viewing habits.

"The truth of the matter is

Birth of 'cord nevers'

Eric Rosenquist, who has a blog called Adventures in Canadian Cord Cutting, said a real change will come in viewing with younger Canadians, calling them "cord nevers," an industry term used to describe those who don't bother at all getting a TV subscription.

the revolution hasn't come," said Brahm Eiley of the Convergence Consulting Group in Toronto.

It's slow moving, with about 400,000 TV subscribers — 3.5 per cent — out of 11.8 million who have cut the cord since 2011, Eiley said, adding cord cutting started after the arrival of online subscription

service Netflix in late 2010.

"TV is not dead," Eiley said. Canadians watch about 28 hours of TV a week and another three hours on the Internet, according to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

But the movement to on-line viewing can't be ignored because it has a cost for TV providers. The average revenue that a TV customer generates is \$65 monthly, compared with almost \$45 for an Internet customer, Eiley said.

TV providers are fighting to keep every subscriber and Bell's Fibe TV has been leading the way with aggressive promotions noted by competitors Rogers and Videotron, which have lost customers in the intensely competitive environment. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Bedside manner 2.0

The doctor isn't in, but he can still see you now. RP-VITA robots enable physicians to have a different bedside presence as they "beam" themselves into hospitals to diagnose patients and offer medical advice during emergencies. A growing number of hospitals in the U.S. are using telepresence robots to expand access to medical specialists, especially in rural areas where there's a shortage of doctors. **RICH PEDRONCELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Random biz fact of the day

3

At least half of all job seekers with smartphones or tablets spend 3 hours or more looking for jobs on those devices every week.

CAREERBUILDER

Urban farming. Old hens dumped once eggs dry up

Backyard chicken enthusiasts find the fun of bringing a slice of farm life into the city stops when the hens become infertile. Hesitant to kill, pluck and eat a chicken, some people abandon the animal in a park or rural area.

As a result, more old hens are showing up at animal shel-

ters, where workers increasingly respond to reports of abandoned poultry.

Urban chicken populations have been on the rise since the mid-2000s, championed by people who wanted to know where their eggs came from and whether the animals were free-range. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Douglas Coupland's latest novel, *Worst. Person. Ever.*, is available from Random House Canada.

Day 11

metronews.ca/temp

Financially unstable

'The bank won't lend you money'

Temporary work in Canada presents a number of uncertainties on the job, but one real-estate agent in Saskatoon said those uncertainties go beyond the office.

Agent Paul Chavady says banks aren't willing to provide mortgages to those working in temporary positions.

"The bank won't lend you money," he said. "They require a stable income where a worker is permanently employed and off probation."

While real-estate agents in Saskatoon don't usually deal with rental properties, he said he would have no problem renting a temporary worker an apartment, but said he would be hesitant about signing a long-term lease, as the financial situation of a temp is too fluid. **METRO IN SASKATOON**



GETTY IMAGES

Temp vs. Perm

16%

A recent Statistics Canada study showed that temp workers earn on average 16 per cent less than their permanent peers.

Temp Enters a Universe of Pain

It was a Quentin Tarantino standoff where everyone holds up a gun at everyone else, except there weren't guns, just words and emotions. The Danimal looked at Kyle and then at Sarah and hissed. "You cradle robber."

Sarah shot back, "What about you, Dan?" (Referring to moi.)

"I'm only here with Shannon to talk business."

"Yeah right, cowboy."

Danimal walked up closer and that's when Kyle slugged him in the gut — well, more like where your gut touches your rib cage. It sounded like a kettle-drum and Danimal fell to the floor shouting astonishingly unprintable things at Kyle and Sarah, who up and left.

"What is wrong with that kid!" shouted Dan, "Oh my God, the pain!"

"Thanks for accusing me of spying," I said.

He coughed. "Shannon, take me to emergency. I think I'm going to die."

We went to his BMW where he curled into a ball in the passenger seat while I drove.

I said, "I really shouldn't be doing this. You're mean."

"Just take me to Crown Permanente."

"Oh. Going to the rich people's hospital are we?"

"Please drive."

We arrived and Danimal hobbled out of the seat and into Emerge, an oasis of calm with tastefully matched fabrics and gentle lighting. There was a copy of *Modern Symphony* magazine



on the walnut-inlaid coffee table. We went to the desk where a supermodel was moonlighting as a nurse on duty.

Dan groaned, "I need an X-ray. Quick."

"Of course, sir. I'll need to take an imprint of a credit card. We accept all major cards."

The Danimal walked up closer and that's when Kyle slugged him in the gut — well, more like where your gut touches your rib cage.

Danimal looked in his pockets. "Oh jeez, it's in the pocket of the jacket that went out for dry-cleaning today. Just let me in. I'll bring it tomorrow. I'm totally insured."

I could see that our supermodel had been through this many a time. "I'm sorry sir, but without an imprint of a valid card with the correct credit limit, I'm afraid there's nothing further we can do."

"I—" He was speechless.

"Welcome to my world," I said. "Get back in the car. I'll take you to Saint Eustace."

"That's in the worst part of town."

"What's your point?"

So we drove off to Saint Eustace. "It's just a slug in the gut, Dan. How bad can it be?"

"He broke something. Or damaged my heart. I can tell. Oh my God, the pain!"

We pulled up to Saint Eus-

Random fact of the day

- The total weight of ants on Earth is about the same as all the weight of humans.



SOURCE: WTFUNFACT.COM

tace, which resembled the battle-ravaged Vietnamese village remains in part three of *Full Metal Jacket*. A conga line of sick and wounded people stretched out the front door and into the street. One quick wardrobe change and you'd have *Les Misérables*.

"I can't go in there," Danimal said.

"It's either that or nothing. Want me to take you home?"

"No!"

"OK, then join the line."

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random biz fact of the day

85%

Smile like you mean it — 85% of the decision to hire or promote an employee is based on the individual's attitude.

SOURCE: NEXCAREER

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A 'TAIL' OF TWO DUMPSTERS

Two dogs abandoned to Ottawa dumpsters in less than a month don't comprise a meaningful pattern or trend, but they do invite comparison.

In the month or so since she was beaten with a shovel and left for dead with the trash in Manor Park, we've heard a lot about Breezy, the 18-month-old German Shepherd-Lab mix, her horrid injuries and her recovery.

Steven Helfer, 24, faces a slew of charges and could face up to five years in prison. The Ottawa Humane Society, which has been taking care of Breezy, wants serious punishment.

"The brutal violence against her has outraged our community and prompted calls for the justice system to mete out the maximum sentence," they write in this month's Ottawa Animal Advocate newsletter.

A second abandoned dog, this one in Vanier, has so far amassed less celebrity. An eight-week-old puppy, left tied to a dumpster, was rescued and subsequently named Oscar (presumably a nod to



URBAN COMPASS

Steve Collins

ottawa@metronews.ca

trash can-dwelling grouch). His face was swollen either from illness or abuse.

There was inherently less drama in the story without an alleged attacker on-scene to charge, and then there was the matter of the pup's lineage.

Oscar, despite his youth, comes ready-made with a quasi-criminal background. He's part pit bull and hence subject to a 2005 province-wide ban on the breed (actually a number of breeds, including American pit bull terriers and Staffordshire terriers, plus, according to the rather broad legislation, any dog deemed to look like a pit bull).

Existing pets were grandfathered, but they can't be bred, and new ones can't be brought into the province. The intent over time is to eliminate

pit bulls.

Born contraband, Oscar can't be adopted in Ontario, so the Humane Society handed him off to Bullies in Need, a volunteer rescue organization that helps the stigmatized dogs.

They started an online crowd-funding campaign to pay for Oscar's medical treatment, which had racked up over \$2,800 in its final hours Sunday, indicating that perhaps not everybody considers the little guy a monster. The next order of business will be a ticket out of province for adoption.

A law that deports puppies is bound to attract some criticism, and the pit bull ban has had its share. It's been called over-broad, alarmist, and based on poor evidence. It's been fought (unsuccessfully) in court, and when the provincial Liberals introduced a website to solicit policy ideas from the public last month, repealing the ban was the top suggestion.

Supporters of the ban see the dogs as unpredictable, far more likely to bite and far more likely to do serious damage when they do.

Author Malcolm Gladwell, who drew uncomfortable analogies between the legislation and racial profiling in a New Yorker piece, also attacked that contention: "More people are admitted [to ER] every year for non-dog bites than dog bites — which is to say that when you see a pit bull, you should worry as much about being bitten by the person holding the leash [as] the dog on the other end."

ZOOM

The terror of the monkey's mask



COURTESY PERTTU SAKSA

Monkeys forced to dance in public

Finnish photographer Perttu Saksa has explored Indonesia's chilling world of dancing monkeys — macaque monkeys clad in dolls' masks and children's clothes, trained to behave like humans and then sent out onto the streets to beg for money.

"They are sort of a mirror," says Saksa on how he

highlighted the monkeys' weird, anthropomorphic quality.

"By making the monkeys the centre of my images, I focus on ideas of a more universal nature, like whether or not we should feel empathy towards them."

So for Saksa, the portraits are a barometer of gauging indifference towards others' suffering.

METRO

Photog's viewpoint



"They are animals, forced to behave like humans do."

Of course all of them were very stressed, some of them were sick."

Perttu Saksa, artist/photographer, 35

Clamping down

- Last month, Jakarta authorities began clamping down on street monkey performances. The city government is buying back all monkeys used as street buskers and donating them to zoos.
- Jakarta Animal Aid Network says 350 animals work as street performers.

A hearty gesture

Pope promotes prayer like meds — crowd gets pillboxes of rosaries

Joking that he's like a pharmacist, Pope Francis is promoting prayer as medicine for the heart.

Appearing on Sunday at his studio window, Francis held up a rosary in a box designed to resemble a packet of pills, before volunteers distributed thousands of those boxes, which feature a design of a human heart.

Francis said he was recommending reciting the rosary prayer as a "spiritual medicine" that is "good for the heart."

Francis's down-to-earth way of speaking, in a style ordinary people can readily understand, is drawing



A box, shaped like a pillbox, contains a rosary that was distributed at the end of Pope Francis' traditional Sunday appearance in St. Peter's Square.

GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

larger-than-usual crowds to St. Peter's Square for his traditional weekly appearances. About 80,000 tourists and Romans packed the square on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Canada has been criticized for sending only \$5M and 1 DART team for Philippines disaster relief. What do you think is the best way to help?

@jeffoulds: A lot better than China. \$1.5 million

@matdey1980: ask the sport stars, they got money coming out if the wood works!



@jeangra68434593: Donate CASH to The Salvation Army and The Red Cross. Those on the ground know specifically what is most urgently needed & where

@SmithMuranocity: give me the \$M we do what we can not what they want

@commsghost: don't send Anything !!

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Ebooks



12 Years a Slave

By. Solomon Northup

iBooks for iPad/Mac



MIND THE APP

Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

It takes an insidious plan to kidnap an intelligent, observant man like Solomon Northup, and harrowing brutality to keep him enslaved afterwards. No wonder a movie has been made of his determined escapes from strange cruelties and stranger men. This Byblotech edition gives better care to its illustrations and makes the 160-year-old text easier to understand with audio narration.

Box office

Thor hammers competition

In an unlikely battle of sequels, Thor: The Dark World bested The Best Man Holiday at the box office. Disney's Thor: The Dark World continued its box-office reign with \$38.5 million in its second week of release, according to studio estimates Sunday. Opening 15 years after the original The Best Man, Universal's The Best Man Holiday opened strongly with \$30.6 million. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



In 12 Years a Slave, Brad Pitt plays enlightened Canadian carpenter Samuel Bass, who in real life was from Ontario's Augusta Township. CONTRIBUTED

Catching Canada's Bass

12 Years A Slave. Descendants of the real-life Samuel Bass learn of their ancestor

His torment ends only after a chance encounter with an enlightened Canadian carpenter, Samuel Bass, played by Brad Pitt, who agrees to help him contact friends who can vouch for his identity.

Pitt's character is based on a real-life figure from Ontario's Augusta Township, and 160 years later, his descendants say they are amazed to learn of their forefather's brave response to a man in need.

"The movie is about Solomon Northup, right? But we would never have heard of him, I guess, if he hadn't met my great great great grandfather," says 50-year-old Kenora, Ont., resident Laurie Morris, whose mother is descended from Bass's second daughter Hannah. "For the Canadian side of things, it shows we're good people. I just imagine being down there and being the only Canadian with an opinion like that."

Morris and other descendants say they are only now discovering details about Bass, who left Canada sometime around 1840 and took on a series of carpentry jobs throughout the United States.

It turns out that other aspects of his life were not so honourable — census records show he left behind a wife, Catherine Lydia Lane, and four daughters: Catherine, Hannah, Martha Maria and Zeruah Bass, says Bonnie Gaylord of the Grenville County Historical Society in Prescott, Ont.

Morris' 75-year-old mother says that could be why she had never heard of Samuel Bass until 12 Years a Slave.

"He wasn't talked about in our family. I guess it was because he was never around," says Rae Moulton Todd of Prescott, located about 100 kilometres south of Ottawa, near the original Bass family farm.

"It is kind of exciting. And

Bass' background

This past summer, historian and author David Fiske traced Bass to southern Ontario. He says he became curious about the man's background after doing some broader research on the book 12 Years a Slave for Fox Searchlight's marketing department in advance of the film's release. He found the link in Sue Eakin's 2007 enhanced version of Solomon Northup's 12 Years a Slave and Plantation Life in the Antebellum South, which included material from the diary of a lawyer Bass hired to draw up a will.

then I turn around and I think, 'He really was a big jerk.' He left his wife and four daughters here to be looked after by whoever."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bob Odenkirk gets seriously funny

Nebraska. Comedian reunites with Will Forte for an Alexander Payne dramedy

MATT PRIGGE

Metro World News in New York

Along with David Cross, Bob Odenkirk is responsible for the sketch comedy landmark Mr. Show. But he's done plenty of drama — just the funny kind.

His role as sleazy (but weirdly capable) lawyer Saul Goodman was one of the highlights of Breaking Bad. Nebraska reunites him with SNL favourite Will Forte, who he directed in The Brothers Solomon. But it's a serious comedy — a funny but moving study from Sideways's Alexander Payne of a family whose sons (Forte and Odenkirk) have to deal with an aging, stubborn, alcoholic father (Bruce Dern) who thinks he's won \$1 million. (He hasn't.)

How did you get involved in a dramedy from a major filmmaker that reunites you with Will Forte?

I have auditioned for three of Alexander's films. I read for Sideways, and I read for About Schmidt, and I read for this. I love his work; I'm a huge fan. I felt very confident in playing Ross because I feel like I know him for a number of reasons — not the least because my father had an alcohol problem. My response to the whole experience was not unlike

Ross's, which is anger and lack of forgiveness.

People make a big deal out of comics doing drama and vice versa. How do you feel about that?

I just look at the character and see if I can play him honestly — see if I can relate; see if I can understand where their energy comes from and what they're after. And that's all I concern myself with.

Is drama the same thing as

comedy, generally speaking? I probably have a harder time playing large on some of those sketch comedy stages that I perform on than I do playing smaller and internalizing. And by the way, Vince Gilligan gave me the role of Saul Goodman because of Mr. Show, not for anything else. I think there's probably a couple things on Mr. Show where you can see the kind of commitment and modulation that a dramatic performance needs to have.



Who's the best Batman, Ben? A gutsy five-year-old

Ben Affleck is getting ready to suit up as Batman for Batman vs. Superman, but he's smart enough to know when he's been bested. After the Make-a-Wish Foundation helped transform San Francisco into Gotham City Friday for the benefit of 5-year-old Miles Scott — who quickly became known as Batkid — Affleck took to Twitter to show his support. "Batkid. Best Batman ever," he posted.

Pop Goes the Week

Beckham's big Knight may change Posh's constant scowl



STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

David Beckham is in line for a knighthood. That explains why his wife, while writing "Lady" 756 times this week had a brief facial expression other than scowling.

A man nails his privates to the ground in the Red Square to protest Russia's devolution into a police state. In unrelated news, Steve-O has been reported missing from his Los Angeles home.

Reasons that Liongate's possible Hunger Games theme park is a really fantastic idea. 1) The Rollercoaster of Random Weapons and Disembowelment is super-fun. 2)



Squirrel on a stick may be neither healthy nor delicious, but it sure is cruel. 3) If your kids go missing while at the park, you can find them at the Lost and Drowned.

Justin Bieber's new song contains the lyrics, "Ooh, you know females/ And how they like to run their mouths." The song continues, "I'm so sorry/ I didn't mean it / I'm too little for corporal punishment/ And my rhymes suck/ #respectyourmothers. This week in tiresome

millionaires: 1) Justin Timberlake complains about critics and says that sometimes he "just wants to bleeping kill everybody." 2) Olsen twin Mary-Kate says that people who don't like her and her sister — purveyors of \$55,000 crocodile backpacks — have "an uneducated perspective." 3) Tom Cruise belatedly scoffs at his own statement that acting sometimes is as hard as fighting in Afghanistan.

Stevie Nicks will guest on American Horror Story. TOO MUCH HAPPINESS.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Lady Gaga. ALL IMAGES GETTY

She may live fast but Gaga's not dying young

Lady Gaga is currently 27 years old, a fateful age for famous musicians, as that's the age at which Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain and — most recently — Amy Winehouse, passed away. But Gaga insists she won't be joining the 27 Club. "I want to show people that I

will last past 27 and I will last longer, and so will you," she says during an interview with New York radio station Z100. "I want to change this code in the atmosphere that in order to be remembered, I must die young. In order to be remembered as a legend, I must be dead first. This is unhealthy."

Brad and Angelina have a Jolie good reunion at the Governors Awards

Brad Pitt kissed Angelina Jolie after her grand entrance at the film academy's Governors Awards Saturday night having been kept apart for weeks by busy schedules. Jolie received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, while Steve Martin and Angela Lansbury were given honorary Academy Awards for their distinguished careers. "Receiving

the Hersholt award makes me feel like I am on the right path but also reminds me I have more to do," Jolie told The Associated Press this past week. The actress-director is co-founder of the Prevent Sexual Violence Initiative and serves as special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

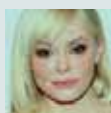


Twitter



@ParisHilton

Just had the most incredible deep tissue massage down at the spa. Feel so relaxed. Perfect way to cure my jetlag. Now time for a swim!



@rosemcgowan

I want a cheeseburger



@SarahKSilverman

Other than a couple primal screams I haven't spoken aloud in a good 36 hours



Justin Bieber

Bieber in the neighbours' bad books

After an eventful tour leg through South America, Justin Bieber was probably hoping to have some relaxing time at home without any more trouble during his break in Los Angeles. Good luck with that. The 19-year-old pop star's neighbours reportedly called the police multiple times early Saturday morning with noise complaints, resulting in two visits from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, according to TMZ.



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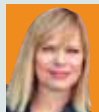
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Travel tip

All-inclusive is the way to go



IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth
kathybuckworth.com

Visiting an all-inclusive

resort located on a hot sandy beach can be the perfect way for families to get fun, sun, and all-you-can-eat buffets designed to satisfy even the pickiest eater. Kids Clubs and a variety of activities for the whole family can keep everyone happy. But beyond the walls of the all-inclusive is likely a new country with history, culture, art, adventure,

and cuisine to discover. Many resorts or vacation providers offer daily or overnight trips which leave from the resort and deliver an easy, hassle-free way to take advantage of the riches of the region. There is usually a selection of active adventure trips, visiting local villages or enjoying a cultural experience such as a museum or theatre.

Families can try local food, shop in markets for authentic goods, try unique physical challenges and contribute to the local economy while learning about the rich history. Transportation and accommodations are arranged for a hassle-free sojourn before returning back to the comfort and relaxation of the all-inclusive.

Exclusively online

- Parenting — it's like being a contestant on Let's Make a Deal. Find out why, and get a great cocktail recipe, at metronews.ca/voices. For the best-selling new mommy gift, pick up Reasons Mommy Drinks, by Lynda Martin Evans and Fiona Stevenson, in bookstores now.

A "now playing the role of..." voice-over is all it takes to swap actors out on daytime soaps. The newbies pick up right where their predecessors left off. Imagine if your family members could be subbed out for telegenic temps...

Here are a few characters who would make excellent temporary relatives

MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO



Pet: Brian Griffin (Seth MacFarlane)

Harry S. Truman once advised getting a dog if you wanted a friend. Pooches offer loyal companionship and unconditional love. You may love them right back, but there's still always the hassle of cleaning up after them and taking them on walks. With Brian, there are no strings attached. He can totally take care of himself, so no poop scooping. Besides, he's a talking dog and incredibly smart. But make sure to lock up your liquor cabinet, as he has a nose for dry martinis.

5

TV characters who could temp with your family



Father: Robert Crawley (Hugh Bonneville)

A dapper well-bred gent, Robert may be a bit of a traditionalist, but at the same time he's always hip to the latest technologies, jumping at the chance to modernize Downton Abbey with electric chandeliers and telephone lines. Most importantly, he's an excellent dad who loves his daughters dearly. While he may initially disapprove when Sybil runs off with the chauffeur or Edith starts writing for the newspaper, he always comes around and eventually accepts decisions they make that further their happiness.

Mother: Rayna James (Connie Britton)

Nashville's Queen of Country — pretty much an amalgam of Reba McEntire, Faith Hill and Tami Taylor from Friday Night Lights — is sweet as tea. Despite decades atop the charts, this big-hearted star remains down to earth. How many other multi-platinum artists do their own grocery shopping? While her man situation can get complicated, she's always protective of her daughters. Her priority is shielding them from any drama. The only downside to having Rayna as a mom would be listening to your friends blather on about your yummy mummy.



Sister: Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones)

A great friend and confidante, Parks and Recreation's Ann Perkins is loyal almost to a fault, always putting the needs of others above her own. Above all, her most unique talent is fading into the woodwork while making other people shine. A top-notch straight woman, having her around will make your jokes seem way more hysterical. Also, considering how well she tolerates the oddball antics of Tom, Chris, Andy et al., you won't have to worry about any of your buddies creeping her out.

Wife: Jess Day (Zooey Deschanel)

The ultimate manic pixie dream girl, Jess is as bubbly as she is beautiful. The textbook definition of "adorkable," she constantly radiates sunshine while rocking Kewpie-doll-cute outfits. She's also loving, loyal and supportive to her circle of friends and is amazing with children. Besides, even Jess' borderline annoying habits of randomly bursting into song or channelling an '80s TV show for an impromptu impression are endearing 99 per cent of the time.



Vanilla-infused Fruity Crème Brûlée makes for light ending

Want a treat after a hearty dinner that isn't too heavy? This crème brûlée with its surprising fruit finish is the perfect choice.

1. Divide berries evenly in bottom of four, oven safe (4 oz/118 ml) ramekins.
2. Spoon 1/3 cup (75 ml) yogurt into each ramekin, over top of berries.
3. Sprinkle yogurt in each ramekin with 1 tbsp (15 ml) sugar.

Ingredients

- 6 tbsp (90 ml) fresh berries (such as raspberries, blueberries or sliced strawberries)
- 1 1/3 cups (325 ml) Yoplait Yop! Greek Yogurt – Va-Va Vanilla Bean
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) granulated sugar or brown sugar, depending on method used for last step



This recipe serves four. JJ THOMPSON

4. Holding kitchen torch 3 to 4 inches (7.5 to 10 cm) away from yogurt, caramelize sugar by heating with torch about 2 minutes, moving flame continuously over sugar in circular motion until sugar is melted

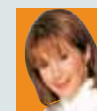
and light golden brown. If you don't have a kitchen torch, you can also use your broiler. The results will be slightly different though and it is recommended that you use brown sugar instead of granulated sugar.

Preheat your broiler. Sprinkle each serving with 2 tsp (10 mL) brown sugar. Place ramekins on a baking sheet and place 4 inches (10 cm) from broiler and broil until sugar is melted.

COURTESY YOPLAIT CANADA

Healthy eating

Choose it and lose it



ROSE REISMAN
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Who doesn't love street meat? When you're on the go, it's a great lunch solution — but the wrong choice will have you filling up on calories and fat.



Sausage on bun with fried onions, cheese sauce, peppers

887 calories/55 g fat

Street vendors selling greasy sausages will put your blood pressure and cholesterol off the charts.

Equivalent

A sausage on a bun with fried onions, cheese sauce and peppers is equal in calories to nine M&M Meat Shop mesquite steaks.



2 hot dogs on small buns with mustard, relish and ketchup

388 calories / 22 g fat

You're better off enjoying two small hot dogs with half the fat and calories.

Dessert. Grape Frangipane Tart

Here's a recipe for a family dinner table triumph: a dessert that's refreshing, elegant and rich, yet not heavy or overly sweet.

The Grape Frangipane Tart looks like a jewel and tastes like a dream with juicy grapes and the complementary flavour of almonds.

Begin with your favourite tart dough recipe or purchase the best tart shell you can buy ready-made from your grocer's freezer selection. Whipped cream is the perfect topping.

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Line a 10-inch tart pan with pastry. Arrange grapes in decorative rings in pastry.
3. In an electric mixer combine almond paste, egg, sugar, butter, flour, and salt until smooth to create frangipane.
4. Carefully spread over arranged grapes and bake for 35 minutes, until the tart is



golden brown and cooked through. If using a convection oven, bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

5. When tart is cool, remove from pan and dust with confectioners' sugar.

NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 1 tart pastry, single crust for 10-inch tart
- 3 1/2 cups red or black seedless California grapes
- 2 oz almond paste
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 tbsp flour
- Pinch salt
- Confectioners' sugar

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Is it loopy to keep cursive in class?

Put down your pencils. As cursive writing loses steam in schools across North America, experts way in on the pros and cons of a former classroom staple

The swirling lines from Linden Bateman's pen have been conscripted into a national fight to keep cursive writing in the classroom.

In years gone by, cursive helped distinguish the literate from the illiterate.

But now, in the digital age, people are increasingly communicating by computer and smartphone. No handwritten signature necessary.

Call it a sign of the times. When the new Common Core educational standards were crafted in the U.S., penmanship classes were dropped. But at least seven of the 45 states that adopted the standards are fighting to restore the cursive instruction.

The argument for cursive

Bateman, a 72-year-old state representative from Idaho, says cursive conveys intelligence and grace, engages creativity and builds brain cells.

"Modern research indicates that more areas of the human brain are engaged when children use cursive handwriting than when they keyboard," said Bateman, who handwrites 125 ornate letters each year. "We're not thinking this through."



Cursive writing is no longer being taught in many schools in the U.S. as some 45 states have adopted Common Core standards, which have eliminated the teaching of cursive writing. AL BEHRMAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's beyond belief to me that states have allowed cursive to slip from the standards."

future, it's much more likely that keyboarding will help students succeed in careers and in school than it is that cursive will," said Morgan Polikoff, an assistant professor of K-12 policy and leadership at the University of Southern California.

The movement to have cursive restored

U.S. states that adopted Common Core aren't precluded from deviating from the standards. But in the world of education, where classroom time is limited and performance stakes are high, optional offerings tend to get sidelined in favour of what's required.

That's why at least seven states — California, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Utah — have moved to keep the cursive requirement. Legislation passed in North Carolina and elsewhere couples cursive with memorization of multiplication tables as twin "back to basics" mandates.

Cursive advocates cite recent brain science that indicates the fluid motion employed when writing script enhances hand-eye co-ordination and develops fine motor skills, in turn promoting reading, writing and cognition skills.

Not so fast!

"We're not thinking this through. It's beyond belief to me that states have allowed cursive to slip from the standards."

Linden Bateman
U.S. state representative, Idaho

They further argue that scholars of the future will lose the ability to interpret valuable cultural resources — historical documents, ancestors' letters and journals, handwritten scholarship — if they can't read cursive. If they can't write it, how will they communicate from unwired settings like summer camp or the battlefield?

"The Constitution of the United States is written in cursive. Think about that," Bateman said.

What do the students and teachers think?

All the fuss seems a bit loopy to certain members of gens X, Y and Z — which have diverged increasingly from handwriting to computers.

The volume of first-class mail at the U.S. Postal Service fell in 2010 to its lowest level in a quarter-century, just as computer use — and the keyboarding it involves — was surging.

Some 95 per cent of teens use the Internet, and the percentage using smartphones to go online has grown from 23 per cent in 2011 to 37 per cent today, according to the Pew Research Center. A 2012 Pew report found the volume of text messages among teens rose from 50 a day on average in 2009 to 60 a day on average two years later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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What are the implications?

Adults unable to write cursive might think back to the experiences of Jacob Lew when President Barack Obama nominated him as treasury secretary in 2013.

- As treasury secretary, Lew's signature would be on U.S. currency. But that signature looked more

like a series of loops than the distinct letters in his name.

- "Jack assured me that he is going to work to make at least one letter legible in order not to debase our currency," the president joked at the time.

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Individualized majors aren't for scholastic slackers

Hitting the custom-built books. Want to be the only person applying for biomimicry designs when you graduate? Go ahead and make your major

JULIA WEST
Metro World News

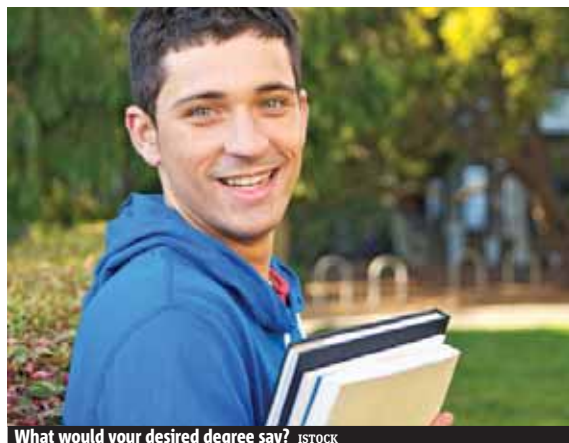
You could go to school for just about anything, within reason. Whatever your interests are, there's a school for that. But what happens when there isn't a major that teaches the specific studies you wish to learn? Dedicated students have found that sometimes, if what you want isn't being offered, you need to resort to a self-designed major. Beware, though — this track is not for everyone.

Before you start applying for an individualized major at your school, consider not only

Perks of picking

"Students in these programs achieve a much higher and more integrated understanding of the core ideas of their major, and how each constituent part fits in."

Joseph E. Devine
Of Carnegie Mellon University



What would your desired degree say? ISTOCK

your goal, but your work ethic and your ability to organize and communicate these thoughts to faculty members.

"Do not think of the student-defined option as a way around the more difficult parts of existing majors," warns Joseph E. Devine, associate dean of Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Colleges tend to require a rigorous application process.

Kevin Egan is the director of interdisciplinary inquiry at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and he believes that Drexel's lengthy application process makes some students reconsider self-designed majors. "I've seen an increase of students expressing interest in individualized majors — probably over 100 students," says Egan. "But quite a lot don't ever

go through the application process, and I think it's because of the amount of work that's involved."

The payoff, however, is worth it. "Students who are a good fit for this program are the ones inspired by wanting to solve real world problems," explains Egan. "It can be something large, like sustainability, and they already have the right mindset because these problems aren't owned by one area of study." That's a notion that schools can agree upon. Paul-ette Hutchinson, the dean of Undergraduate College at Rosemont College in Philadelphia, agrees.

"The purpose of an individualized major is to provide options to a student who is interested in something that does not fall within the parameters of a single discipline," she says.

'Round the world wisdom

The short end of the stick ain't so bad

The severe market crash in October 2008 changed my life. I started running to regain my health, both emotional and physical. Shortly after I took my first steps, I ran the Gobi March in China in June '09, followed by the Atacama Crossing in Chile in '10, and the Sahara Race in Egypt in '11. In this post, I share a lesson about life, learned from the desert.



LESSONS FROM THE DESERT
Stefan Danis
life@metronews.ca

Most people facing adversity feel as if they received the short end of the stick. "Poor me!" they tell themselves. A great deal of grit and determination are needed to overcome adversity, two aspects inaccessible to those feeling victimized.

The simplest way to eliminate such feelings is to put them in perspective. When witnessing real adversity, consciously lock it into memory and recall it as a standard with which to compare your own. In this context, you can turn your "mountain" of adversity into a "molehill."

The Gobi race took place in a predominantly Muslim region of China, where the Chinese government was

implementing an aggressive "integration" agenda overtly suppressing the local way of life. Five days after we crossed the finish line, a peaceful demonstration raising awareness for 300,000 individuals about to be forcibly removed out of their ancestral homes turned into a massacre: 57 dead protesters.

Life can be harsh, no question. Bad days come with regularity but keep things in perspective and count your blessings. Adversity carries a much smaller burden when we place it in its right context.

Can you contextualize your adversity?

STEFAN DANIS IS THE CEO OF NEXCA-REER AND MANDRAKE, AND THE AUTHOR OF GOBI RUNNER

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Sens stinging after letdown vs. Jackets

NHL. Umberger, strong power-play unit leads Columbus to victory at Canadian Tire Centre

Columbus called it Blue Jackets hockey, but the Ottawa Senators called it ugly.

Ryan Johansen, R.J. Umberger and Fedor Tyutin each had a power-play goal to lead the Blue Jackets to a 4-1 win on Sunday.

Columbus head coach Todd Richards said after the game his team had put forth a "60-minute effort."

"When we're playing our best hockey that's exactly how we're playing," Richards said.

On the other side, Senators coach Paul MacLean had no explanation for his team's inconsistencies. MacLean is struggling to understand how his team can play so well one night and so poorly the next.

"At some point in time when you hit 30 (games) you are what you are and if this is what we are as an inconsistent group it's not going to be much fun," said MacLean.

Umberger's second-period power-play goal was the eventual winner.

Derek MacKenzie had the Blue Jackets' (7-10-3) only even-strength goal of the game while Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 30 shots for the win.

Bobrovsky wasn't overly busy, but when he was needed he made the big save.

"When your goalie's making big saves you want to work for him at the other end and get some goals," said Johansen.



Senators goalie Craig Anderson and defenceman Erik Karlsson watch a linesman fish a goal out of their net during Sunday's loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets at Canadian Tire Centre. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Everybody was really good."

Erik Karlsson scored the lone goal for the Senators (8-8-4) in the third period. Craig Anderson made 18 saves.

Coming off a 4-2 comeback win against Boston on Friday, the Senators had no explanation for why they came out so poorly Sunday. But they say they know things need to improve quickly.

"We can't keep battling back every game because it's not going to work," said Karlsson. "We're 20 games in and it seems like there's a lot of games left to be played, but if

On Sunday

4

Blue Jackets

1

Senators

we don't start showing up soon it's going to be over quick."

Trailing 3-0 to start the third, things got even worse for the Senators as MacKenzie made it 4-0 at the five-minute mark of the third.

An otherwise ugly game got even uglier after Ottawa's Mark Borowiecki caught Jared Boll with his head down. James Wisniewski quickly came to his teammate's defence and fought Borowiecki. The two were tossed from the game once the penalties were sorted out.

"I was just trying to finish a check," said Borowiecki. "I would never want to hurt someone or put someone in jeopardy physically or anything like that. I was just trying to make a hard play and what happened, happened."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2022 World Cup

Workers being exploited in Qatar, report alleges

An international human rights group has cataloged alleged human rights abuses in Qatar in connection to construction projects for the 2022 World Cup, and called on FIFA to ensure the exploitation of migrant workers ends.

In a report published Sunday, Amnesty International warned that migrant workers are exposed to dangerous working conditions, poor standards of accommodation and the non-payment of wages.

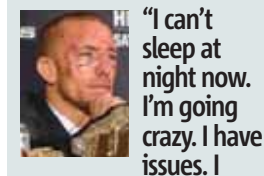
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Formula One

Vettel's monopoly on checkered flags continues in Texas

Four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel set a Formula One single-season record with his eighth consecutive victory, winning the U.S. Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, with yet another dominating drive Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC 167



"I can't sleep at night now. I'm going crazy. I have issues. I need to relax. I need to get out for a while."

Georges St-Pierre, hinting at retirement at his post-fight news conference after winning a controversial, razor-thin split decision over Johnny Hendricks to keep his welterweight championship on Saturday night at UFC 167 in Las Vegas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burris buries Argos as Ticats land in Grey Cup



Argos quarterback Ricky Ray, left, talks with Hamilton's Henry Burris on Sunday in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two years after being told by the Calgary Stampeders he wasn't good enough, Henry Burris is returning to the Grey Cup.

The 38-year-old quarterback rallied the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from a 14-point deficit en route to a wild 36-24 win over the Toronto Argonauts in the East Division final Sunday afternoon.

Burris cut Toronto's half-time lead to 24-17 with a late TD strike, then led Hamilton to a 27-24 advantage heading into the fourth. After watching Argos star quarter-

CFL playoffs

36

Tiger-Cats

24

Argonauts

back Ricky Ray tear it up in the first half, Burris outperformed Ray in the second to lead Hamilton to its first Grey Cup berth since '99.

"Somebody pinch me, I still think I'm dreaming

right now," Burris said. "For the past four years I've been through a lot, guys."

"One organization told me, basically, I wasn't good enough and traded me to Hamilton. And during the course of this year people doubted what I could do and to come out here with our team and accomplish this is huge."

Burris's 14-yard TD pass to Greg Ellingson capped a 68-yard march to open the second half and made it 24-24. Burris then drove Hamilton to set up Luca Congi's 23-

yard field goal for a 27-24 lead entering the fourth.

Burris was especially cool when Hamilton took possession at its own 38 with 6:55 remaining. He marched the Ticats to the Toronto 14-yard line — hitting Bakari Grant for 25 yards on second-and-19 — to set up Congi's 20-yard boot to make it 30-24 with 1:14 left.

Hamilton will face Saskatchewan in the Grey Cup next Sunday after the Roughriders upset Calgary 35-13 in the West final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

From this week things can only get better. No, really! Keep telling yourself that your luck is on the turn and in a matter of days you will be seeing concrete evidence that it is.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The lesson you need to learn this week is that not even a Taurus can do it all on their own.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

The more you give the more you get in return. That applies to all aspects of your existence but especially to partnerships of a personal nature.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What can you do to make a loved one's life more enjoyable? You are well aware they have made sacrifices for you, now you must consider what they need from you in return.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It may be frustrating that so many little things are going wrong but don't let it get to you. Come the end of the week a new phase will begin and suddenly it will all start going right for you again – the little things and the big things.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You know you cannot escape from the consequences of your actions so don't waste time trying.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

In every enterprise there comes a time when you have to choose whether to carry on and give it your all or admit that it no longer inspires you and call it a day.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

An issue you have been avoiding has now to be faced. You have just four days to get your act together and resolve the situation – after that the matter will be taken out of your hands.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

A few days from now the Sun will enter your sign and a new cycle will begin. Before then you must tie up loose ends, be they personal or professional, that might hold you back.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Make the most of the Sun's final few days in the friendship area of your chart to have fun with people whose outlook and interests match your own.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You have a tendency to say what is on your mind, even when it might be wise to stay quiet, and someone in authority won't be amused by your honesty today.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

For some reason you have started to doubt a colleague's loyalty but what happens over the next few days will reassure you they are still on your side.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

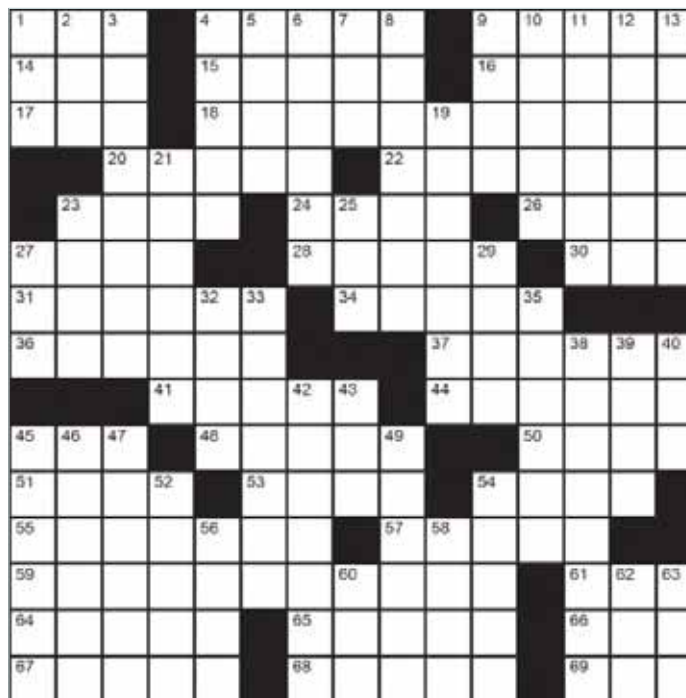
1. Cdn. place to buy stuff on TV
4. Actress Cheryl, and surnamesakes
9. Peru's past persons
14. Manfred Mann's "Do ___ Diddy Diddy"
15. Towards-the-rear
16. Actor Peter O'Who?
17. Will Smith movie
18. Wilderness-sub-sisting show starring Canadian Les Stroud
20. ___ Gritty Dirt Band
22. Some windows
23. Becomes soaked wet
24. Swag
26. Identical
27. Jimmy ___ (Shoe designer)
28. Blackthorn fruits
30. Canada, HMCS
31. ___ The States, ___
32. ___ Nogait National Park, NWT
34. Good ___
36. Trojan War advice-giver
37. Moviedom's Mr. Mulroney
41. Namesakes of Canadian musician Mr. Jurvanen, aka Bahamas
44. Fork over dough: 2 wds.
45. "You're it!" game
48. Tutu textile
50. Finales
51. Stare
53. Baseball great

Down

54. Coca-Cola guru Mr. Candler, and others (b.1851 - d.1929)
55. Blunders
57. Paris bridges
59. Terrain of trains and tracks: 2 wds.
61. Method
64. This planet

Down

1. Ex-airline
2. Mr. Mineo
3. Winds from The Rockies
4. Holds out
5. Adjoin
6. "Splash" (1984) star Ms. Hannah's
7. Old Rome's 605
8. Vehicles launched in 1959 by Canadian inventor Joseph-Armand Bombardier
9. "Ripley's Believe ___ Not!": 2 wds.
10. Standards
11. Baie-___, Quebec
12. Startles
13. Has a gut instinct
19. What Tom Mulcair supporters do in elections: wd. + acr.
21. "___ Feeling" by

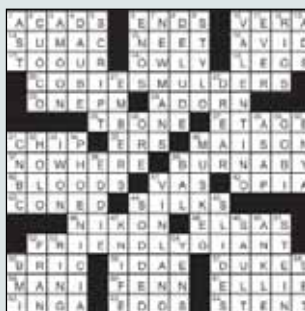


See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- The Black Eyed Peas
23. Elisabeth of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"
25. 'Motor' suffix
27. Type of package [abbr.]
29. Steve Winwood's "While You ___ Chance"
32. Big sch. in Canada's largest city, ___
33. "Lay It on the Line" Canadian band
35. Most sardonic
38. British Columbia range, ___ Mountains
39. Lute-like instruments
40. "Private Dancer" singer's initials-sharers
42. Skin stuff
43. Tricky
45. Certain candy
46. Ancient shopping spots
47. Adhesive appliers
49. Spain, in Spanish
52. A-list
54. Tennis great Mr. Roddick's
56. "Icky-pool!" equivalents
58. Kind of agreement
60. Saskatoon's airport code
62. Have
63. Tiny

Friday's Crossword

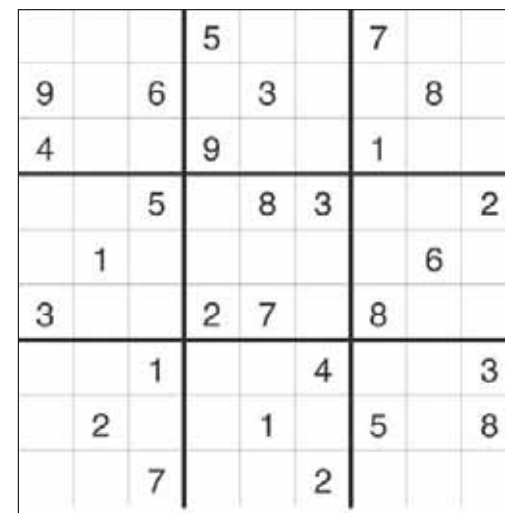


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How to play

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Friday's Sudoku



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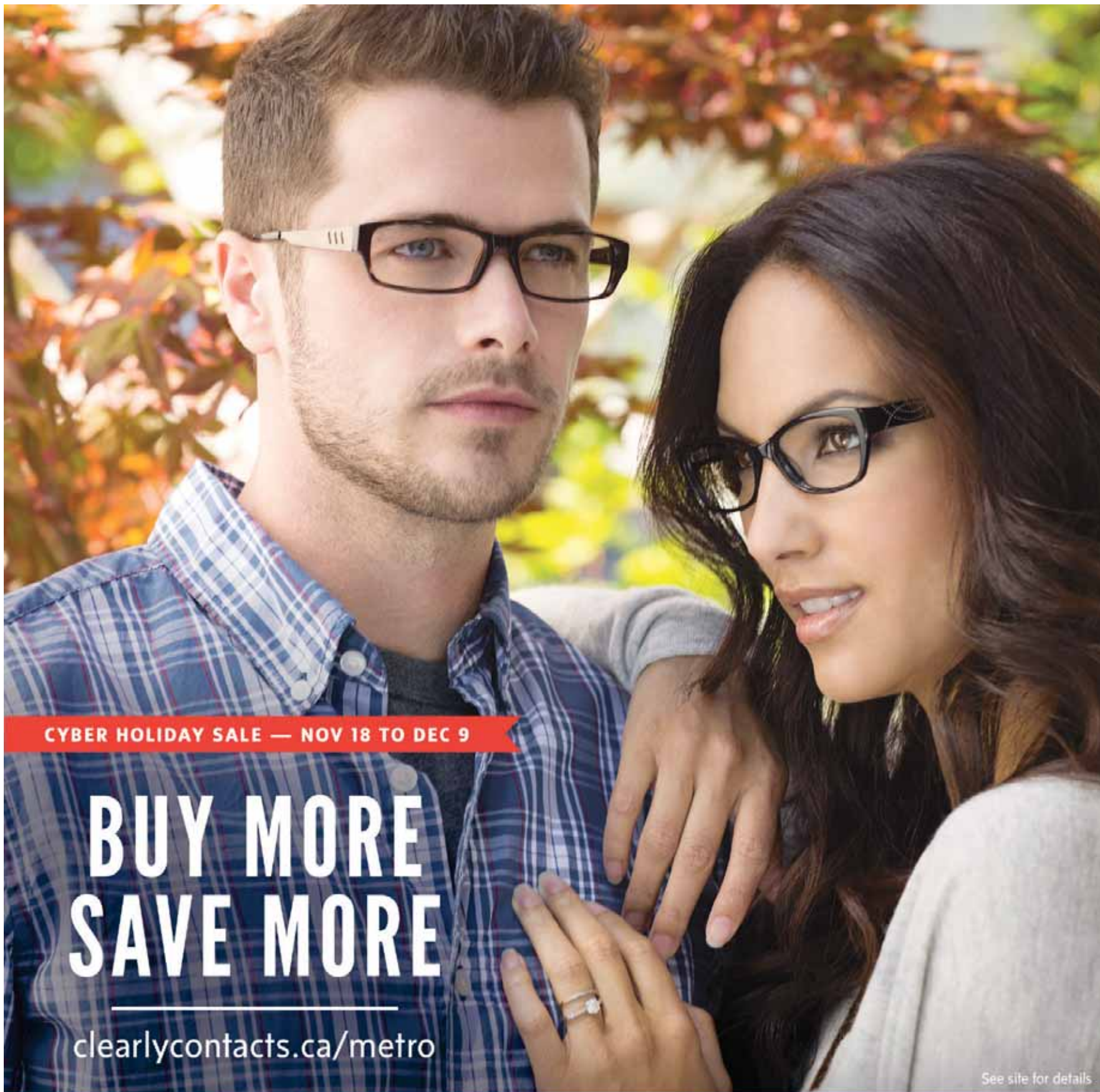
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